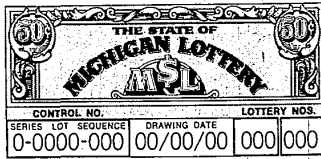


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Spring Beauty Comes In Small Packages

By BETTY FRANKEL Special Writer

Spring beauty comes packaged in little brown bulbs, each of which contains a completely formed, embryonic flower.

Depending on the kinds of bulbs you plant, you can have flowers from late February until early June.

The earliest to bloom are small dainty charmers that grow from tiny little bulbs.

One of the most delightful of the early bulbs is known as winter acornite, or cranthis, which is a Greek word meaning "flower of spring."

There are all sorts of variations in size and form. There are kinds with a single large flower per stalk and kinds with a cluster of small flowers at the top of each stalk.

bloom. These latter have dainty nodding flowers of a wonderful intense shade of blue.

Next come the species crocuses. These are the wild types and are smaller than the Dutch hybrids.

Although these little bulbs precede the blooming of the Dutch crocuses, for many people the big blooms of the Dutch crocus garlanding the base of a tree or scattered across the front lawn are the true heralds of spring.

Incidentally, there are always some gardeners who wonder about the relationship of daffodils and narcissus. It's just a matter of terminology.

There are even little miniatures that copy the forms of the large kinds, but on a much reduced scale.

Among the favorites are King Alfred, a large trumpet golden yellow; Beersheba, which is white with an ivory trumpet; Duke of Windsor, unusually large white flower with flat apricot-orange

cup. Recurvus is the popular Pheasant's Eye narcissus which has white petals that flare back slightly and a small yellow cup edged with a narrow border of deep scarlet.

The climax of the season comes with the tulips, which are among the best known and best loved of all flowers.

Earliest to bloom of the species tulips is one known as red crocus tulip. Next comes the water lily tulip and other members of the Kaufmanniana group.

At first the tulips grown were the wild types which tended to have short stems, relatively small blooms, but bright clear colors.

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variation in the form of the flower and in other characteristics. Eventually through selection and cross breeding the variations were emphasized and a great many kinds of hybrid tulips were produced.

For many years practically the only tulips grown in most gardens were the large flamboyant hybrids. In recent years, though, there has been a renewed interest in the species tulips.

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